

New-York Daily Tribune

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1863.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

—From Rebel sources mainly we have important news from the South-West. Gen. Dodge had gone 11 miles beyond Tusculum, and on the 29th was fighting the Rebel Gen. Forrest. Dodge took possession of Courtland, Ala., on the 26th. Dispatches from Jackson, Miss., of the 29th say that Gen. Grant was at Union Church, on the Natchez and Hazlehurst road—near by east from Natchez. A train of transports had reached Hazlehurst, and it was supposed that the Unionists were about to attack Natchez. Light-draught boats were moving up the Yazoo River, for what purpose is not stated. Gen. Banks had taken Alexandria, the principal town of Rapides Parish, La., on the Red River. Another Rebel dispatch from Jackson says that communication with Grand Gulf had been reestablished; that after six hours cannonading at Grand Gulf the Union gunboats withdrew. The boats fired 3,000 shots; only three Rebels were killed, one of them a colonel, and 22 wounded. Two gunboats were apparently disabled. The boat was three miles below on the west side. Union forces were on the Louisiana shore opposite Grand Gulf.

—Wheeling papers of Saturday make the situation in West Virginia on Friday about thus: That Jones (Rebel) had got his forces as far as Bridgeport, on the North-Western Virginia Road, which is seventeen miles from Grafton, and about five from Clarksburg; that he was attempting to form a junction with Imboden and Jackson, preparatory to a combined attack on Clarksburg. The aggregate strength of the Rebel commanders is variously estimated at 10,000 and 15,000. Undoubtedly it is much larger than heretofore reported. From Pittsburgh we have some particulars of the defeat of Col. Mulligan at Fairmount on Tuesday last. It appears that the Colonel attacked a small force under the Rebel leader Jones, and was getting the better of him when the enemy was re-enforced by two strong columns approaching in different directions, and under the concentrated fire, our troops were compelled to give way. One of the columns under Imboden came down by way of the Evansville Pike, and the other, under Herman, by way of Indian Creek, so that Mulligan's little force was nearly surrounded. He fought from 11 till 4 o'clock, however, and only retreated when fairly overpowered by the enemy, who had fully 20,000 men in the fight. In view of the danger of Parkersburg, Colonel D. Frost has declared Wood County under martial law.

—We have information from Little Rock, Ark., that the return of Gen. Sterling Price to the command of the trans-Mississippi Rebel Department is infusing some life into it. Many of the soldiers who left Hindman in disgust are rallying to the standard of Price, whose undeniable ability, manifested in his Missouri and Arkansas campaigns, renders him the most popular leader with the Rebels of that region. He will probably give the National troops some trouble. The enemy west of the Mississippi has been whipped too many times to become very formidable again; but he is now gaining important aid from abroad. Thirty thousand foreign muskets were recently received at Matamoros for the use of the Rebels west of the Mississippi. Three or four thousand have already reached Price at Little Rock, and the remainder are on their way to him, overland, through Texas and the Indian Territory. The immense contraband traffic between the Rebels and Matamoros shows the importance of our holding the Rio Grande from El Paso to its mouth, which could be done by a small force. The blockade will never be complete without it.

—On Saturday a Copperhead riot occurred at Centerville, Ind. Two weeks before a man came to the place wearing a Butternut breastpin. The Sheriff took the obnoxious breastpin from him. The man's friends gathered at Abington on Saturday and visited Centerville for the purpose of punishing the Sheriff. The friends of the latter got the better of the rioters and dispersed them. Being re-enforced, they made a second attack on the town in the afternoon, shouting for Jeff. Davis as they rode in. The Union people overpowered them and captured 27, who are now in jail, charged with disturbing the peace and carrying with arms in their hands.

—There was a meeting of colored men and women at the Rev. Mr. Thompson's church, in Prince street, Brooklyn, last evening, for the purpose of raising recruits for the war. It was addressed by Dr. Gloucester (colored), and another colored gentleman whose name we did not ascertain. Later in the evening several white gentlemen participated in the proceedings. Mayors of cities, Governors of States, Major-Generals, and the President of the United States have indorsed the effort now being made to raise 10,000 colored men to fight their enemies and ours.

—A schooner from Port Royal, arrived yesterday morning, reports that when 30 miles east of Murrell's Inlet she was boarded by a boat from the steamer Monticello, Lieut. Commanding D. L. Draine, who reported that he had that day destroyed two warehouses filled with cotton, and two large schooners, with cargoes of boots, shoes, &c., for the Southern market, in the above Inlet. Murrell's Inlet is on the South Carolina coast, a few miles south of the northern boundary of the State.

—The 76th Ohio Regiment, Col. Wood, returned on the 26th ult. to Milliken's Bend from an expedition into Mississippi. They visited the corn-growing region on Deer Creek, and destroyed 350,000 bushels of corn and thirty cotton-gins and grist-mills in Rebel employ. Three full regiments of negroes are now organized at Milliken's Bend, and a fourth is nearly full. There is a prospect of raising six or seven thousand able-bodied men in a few days.

—The whaling brig Leonidas, Capt. Skiff, from St. Domingo March 28, has just arrived at New-Zedford. Capt. Skiff reports that he was chased into St. Domingo by the Rebel pirate Retribution, which waited off the port three days for the Leonidas to come out. On the fourth day the United States steamer Alabama came down and captured the Retribution, and when last seen had her in tow. Capt. Skiff says he saw it with his own eyes.

—The latest advices from Cape Girardeau state the Rebels under Gen. Marmaduke, after having their rear assailed twice, and suffering severe loss, finally escaped across the White River, burning all the bridges behind them, and disappearing by various routes in the direction of Chalk Bluffs, on the Arkansas line. The result of this raid to the enemy is repeated humiliations, disasters, and a cowardly flight before inferior numbers.

—The 9th New-York Volunteers (Hawkins's Zouaves) arrived last night. They are to be escorted through the city this morning by the 12th Regiment Militia, a detachment of the wounded men of the 9th Regiment, and the Fire Department. The line will be formed on the Battery at 9 o'clock. From there the procession will march up Broadway to Union square, and down Fourth avenue and the Bowery to Bond street.

—Yesterday's report that McNeill and Vandevor

had returned from the pursuit of Marmaduke's Rebel force, was an error. The pursuit stopped at Chalk Bluff, on the Arkansas line, on Saturday. Our total loss was 25; the Rebel loss much more. The march was 240 miles; the Rebels were greatly demoralized.

—On the 2d inst., thirty Rebels in Union disguise flagged a wood train on the Memphis and Chester Railroad, near Grand Junction. The train stopped, and a number of prisoners were taken. The engineer managed to detach the engine and escaped with it.

—Col. Grierson's cavalry have made important demonstrations on the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, in the direction of Jackson and Meridian. They tore up the track, burned two bridges, and destroyed a large amount of Rebel property.

—The "French Lady," alias Col. Zarvon, is at last exchanged. He was one of the cargo of prisoners sent up from Fort Monroe on Saturday morning. Mrs. Semmes, wife of the captain of the English pirate Alabama, was another of the party.

—An English brig, from New-York for Santiago de Cuba, reports that at 9 a. m. of the 17th ult. she was spoken by the pirate Alabama. When the vessels parted company the pirate steered in a westerly direction.

—Three hundred and thirty-nine Rebel prisoners were brought to Washington yesterday, including one Colonel, one Lieut.-Colonel, a Major, and 40 other officers. This makes a total of about 600 since Saturday.

—Gen. Stahl sent in 73 Rebel prisoners taken in the gallant fight at Warrenton Junction on Sunday. The affair was most creditable to the Union arms.

—The iron-clad Passaic arrived here last night in tow of the James Adger, from North Edisto, South Carolina. The Passaic was damaged in the fight at Charleston, and comes here to be repaired.

—Our correspondent at Suffolk gives an account of the gallant reconnaissance beyond the Nanamoud on Friday afternoon, of which we had a brief notice in yesterday's paper.

—Any one anxious to know what devils are bred by Secession will be satisfied by reading an account of Rebel butcheries in Cedar County, Mo., reprinted in another column from a St. Louis paper.

—The Rebels say that the United States sloop-of-war Preble was destroyed by fire off Pensacola on the 29th.

—In the fight at Monticello, Ky., the Rebels lost eight killed, 18 wounded, and four prisoners. The Unionists lost none.

GENERAL NEWS.

—By the arrival of the Etas, from Liverpool, April 22, and Queenstown April 23, we have four days later news from Europe. The English Government has declared its intention to prosecute the builders of the Rebel pirate Alabama. The organs of the English aristocracy threaten again with new schemes of an English and French interference in the American war. The uneasiness in Europe about the Polish question is steadily increasing, and the belief is gaining ground that it will lead to a general war. It is thought that first Sweden will be drawn into it, and that then the war will assume larger dimensions. An offensive and defensive alliance between France and Sweden is already talked of. The throne of Greece has been formally accepted by Prince William of Denmark.

—The Aldermen yesterday tendered the freedom of the city to Capt. Jose Ralo de Bernate of the Spanish frigate Carmer, now on a visit to this port. A communication was received from the City Inspector in regard to the filthy condition of the city, and the effect of this state of things upon the health of the community. For the week ending April 27 (alt.), he says there were 140 more deaths than occurred during the same week of the previous year, and remarks that we are "preparing the way for some fatal scourge by the no longer to be endured filthy condition of our city."

—The investigation into the alleged frauds in the prize cases was commenced in earnest yesterday by Mr. Jourdan, Solicitor of the Treasury, at the Custom-House, with closed doors. Mr. Grinnell, Capt. Marshall, and others, didn't see why the affair couldn't be made public, and wanted a reporter of their own present, but Mr. Jourdan decided that it was not proper that the investigation should be made public. When it was closed, he should present a report, and the Government could publish it if they deemed that the public interest demanded it.

—John C. Kellier, formerly a clerk in Arnold, Constable & Co.'s store, in this city, was caught in Philadelphia, on Saturday, with \$1,000 worth of silks in his possession which he had stolen from his employers. He was brought to this city, and was yesterday committed to prison by Justice Dodge, in default of \$3,000 bail, to answer.

—Louis Lee, alias "Barney Aaron," a noted pugilist, is now in the Tombs on a charge of being caught in the act of picking the pocket of Capt. Arbog of the brig Rapid, on Sunday evening, of his watch and a wallet containing \$117 in Treasury notes.

—A whaling bark arrived yesterday at New-Zedford reports that she saw a burning vessel in latitude 22° 27' north, longitude 26° 10'. Did not ascertain her name. It was, of course, guessed to be the work of a pirate.

—The Board of Councilmen yesterday concurred with the Aldermen to sell at auction a ten years' lease, commencing on May 1, 1864, of a new ferry to run from Roosevelt street to Bridge and South Sixth streets, Brooklyn.

—A steamer left St. John's, N. F., yesterday for Quebec, taking eight cabin and all the steerage passengers and crew saved from the Anglo-Saxon. The other cabin passengers leave for Halifax and Portland on Wednesday.

—The organization of the new Board of Aldermen of Jersey City took place last night. The success of a number of Copperhead candidates is attributed to at least one Loyal National League Republican vote.

—Cyrus W. Field spoke in Boston yesterday in behalf of the Atlantic Telegraph. A Committee of assistance was appointed.

—Navigation of the St. Lawrence is fully open—the ice-bridge at Quebec is gone. The canals are all open.

—The Nova-Scotia Assembly is just prorogued. There will be a new election on the 28th instant.

—There was an enormous business and great excitement at the Stock Board yesterday morning. The business was well distributed throughout the list, and the aggregate has seldom been exceeded. The bears were swept away by the advancing tide of speculation, based on the abundance of money and the favorable advices from the army. The market absorbed thousands of shares, where, in some cases, hundreds would have checked the movement, and the feeling appeared to be that the advance in prices had scarcely commenced. The private dispatches from Washington indicated large sales of gold, and the market toward the close was weak. The advance in shares was general, and scarcely needed individual notice. Governments were strong, selling at 106 for registered and 101 for coupons of 1861. Railroad bonds were firm at full prices. At the Second Board the full prices of the morning were not sustained, but the market was irregular and left off firm. Governments were strong. In exchange the movement has been irregular, in consequence of the hoariness in gold. Sterling is nominally 124 1/2 (alt.). Freight is rather firmer for heavy goods, with moderate fluctuation.

THE POSITION.

It is positively affirmed that a great battle, seven hours in duration, was fought on Sunday at Chancellorsville, between Gen. Hooker and Gen. Lee, in which the Rebels were repulsed, with immense losses on both sides, and the death of several Major-Generals on ours. We do not vouch for the statement any further than to say that it comes to us from a source likely to be well informed, and that we know of nothing to make it improbable, and nothing by way of evidence to contradict it. The silence of the Government, which is quite generally interpreted to indicate bad news, does not seem to us suggestive in either way. The authorities at Washington have chosen, at a moment when the interest and anxiety of the public are intense, to withhold all telegrams, favorable and unfavorable. We have received dispatches by mail and by special messenger, giving nothing but good news, and which to the unofficial eye were wholly unobjectionable, but were positively refused transmission over the wires. It is simply that all news is arrested at Washington, and it is, therefore, impossible to draw conclusions as to its character.

A reverse on Saturday was considerably discussed yesterday in the streets, but had no better authority than the arrival of a frightened correspondent of one of the morning papers, which did not attach sufficient credit to his story to give it to the public. To speak of a reverse even is using a stronger word than the report justified, since it only alleged in substance that the enemy attacked Hooker's line on Saturday, and after a severe contest pierced his center, handled his right wing rather roughly, and compelled him to reconstruct his lines during the following night. It may be presumed that nothing less than a general attack could accomplish so much as this, and if a general attack accomplished no more, the eventual defeat of Lee's army may be deemed certain. But to this account we attach little or no importance. It is quite possible—it is more than probable—that there was fighting at Chancellorsville on Saturday, but in the absence of authoritative statements, we do not suppose it to have been a general engagement.

On the left, below Fredericksburg, there was a decisive movement, an account of which we printed yesterday exclusively, from a special correspondent. Gen. Sedgwick crossed his whole corps, drove the Rebel pickets before him, advanced by a ravine, occupied Fredericksburg, and subsequently took the first line of redoubts in rear of the town. This was accomplished in obedience to a telegraphed order from Gen. Hooker at Chancellorsville, which late on Saturday, afternoon announced an appearance of the retreat of the enemy in front of him. That telegram is quite sufficient to show that he had sustained no reverse at that time, yet the report above referred to dates the disaster on Saturday. Moreover, the 1st Corps, under Gen. Reynolds, moved leisurely and ostentatiously up the Rappahannock on Saturday, to Banks's Ford, in order to induce the enemy to march out his forces from Fredericksburg—of course to the Rebel position at Chancellorsville. Now if Gen. Hooker were hard pressed on Saturday, he would in the first place have ordered Reynolds's corps rapidly up, and, in the second place, its movement would not have been displayed to the enemy for the purpose of tempting him to send more forces against a position already threatened.

We have assurances from three points that Gen. Stoneman has been successful in cutting the enemy's communications by rail with Richmond, and we see no reason to doubt the fact. If it be a fact, it will go far to dispel all uncertainty as to the success of the whole grand movement of Gen. Hooker. For it must be remembered that Lee depended on his supplies from Richmond on that line, and can receive them on no other. If it were possible to transport them on the Gordonsville road—if there were any means of doing it in any way—it can be of no avail, because Hooker holds that road at Chancellorsville. But Lee has neither wagons nor horses enough to feed his army, nor can it be supposed that he had any considerable amount of supplies on hand near Fredericksburg. The commissariat of his army has been hard pressed to keep his men fed from Richmond. Nothing can have accumulated in camp. Among the rumors in Washington is one that a dispatch from Gen. Lee had been intercepted, in which he stated that he was surrounded and without supplies.

It follows, therefore, that Gen. Lee must fight or starve. Gen. Hooker, knowing the railway is cut, might wait at Chancellorsville till famine forced Lee out of his trenches in the hope to defeat the national forces and so recover his communications. Lee, however, did not wait till he was forced, but, like the brave commander he has shown himself to be, marched at once to Chancellorsville, and flung himself against Hooker's lines. It is hardly to be doubted that his whole army was holding the Rappahannock line when Hooker crossed it, and had not, as yesterday seemed possible, fallen back to the North Anna. In these circumstances, delay is all in Hooker's favor. He has been deemed an impetuous leader. Mark the consummate judgment and coolness with which he halted after concentrating his forces south of the river, and awaited the attack which he knew his out-generaled enemy was compelled to make. He need not hasten to assume the offensive. Let Lee dash against those veteran lines till he has worn out his own forces with the persistence and desperation of his effort. While on his side victory is necessary to the preservation—even to the existence of his army, Gen. Hooker has only to hold his own. Not to be defeated is for him a victory.

Neither, therefore, in the news which we have received by mail, nor in the silence which the Government preserves, nor in the relative positions of the two forces, do we find cause for other than confident expectation of decisive success. It may be presumed there has been heavy work, the result of which we do not know; but we regard it as very probable that the general engagement may have

been postponed, or that if a serious battle has taken place, the news is only withheld because Gen. Hooker did not choose, in the circumstances explained above, to convert a repulse of the enemy into an immediate rout. In common with the nation, whose pulses leap with expectation, we regret that it is deemed wise to suppress whatever truth is known, but we venture to expect authentic intelligence at an early hour from other sources than the telegraphic wires.

EUROPE IN OUR QUARREL.

Although the success of Napoleon III. in his Mexican adventure has not yet been such as would naturally incite to further and much larger operations in the same line, the British aristocratic journals received yesterday by the Etna revive rumors of trouble brewing for us at the Tuileries. "The Emperor is indignant," says one, "at the facilities offered by Mr. Adams for the transmission of arms and warlike stores to Mexico to be used against the French." What facilities? The arms and stores aforesaid are of British manufacture, and they are shipped to Mexico in British bottoms. If the Emperor sees fit to be "indignant" in the premises, he should level his indignation at some or all of those who are doing him the mischief; not at us, who simply stand out of the way. All that Mr. Adams has done amounts to just this—he has apprised American cruisers that these munitions of war are not designed for the Rebels; therefore, we have no quarrel with their shippers. How can Napoleon take offense at that?

But "the distress occasioned by the Cotton famine is not on the decrease." That is so. "Our Civil War is the immediate cause." Right again. "It will be necessary to resort to coercive measures" to put an end to it. True enough; and that is just what we are now about. We shall put down the Rebellion at the earliest possible moment, and thus liberate all the Cotton in the South; when whoever will pay most for it will get it. If "coercion" is the right thing, we are manifestly the party to apply it. If wrong, why should Europe dabble in it? "Too many cooks" are proverbially apt to make a bad mess; and Europe will only make this bad business worse by dipping into it.

But there are grave questions of maritime right pending, it is whispered. Very probably; but not with France. She has built, fitted out, and manned no corsairs to prey upon our peaceful commerce; she has not made a business of running our blockade; she has no Trent, no Peterhoff seizures to complain of. She has treated us quite unexceptionably throughout our great trial, and we have no wish, no reason, to quarrel with her. And we put no faith in these British rumors of ill will on her part toward us, to be proclaimed by the recall of her ambassador. "The wish was father, Harry, to that thought."

In our private judgment, a grave mistake was made by our Government in the manner, if not in the substance, of its response to the formal overture of France looking to a conclusion of our Civil War. We believe the spirit that impelled Napoleon to that act was by no means unfriendly to us; but, even had it been otherwise, we would have assumed that it contemplated peace through a re-establishment of the authority and integrity of the Union, not through their overthrow. We believe that, had Gov. Seward's response to the French overture assumed that France could not mean to countenance our National disruption and degradation, and that we cordially accepted her good offices to bring about an understanding with the Rebels, and thus restore Peace on the basis of reunion, the good will and good offices of Napoleon would have been secured, and the Rebels made responsible, not only in truth but in appearance and the judgment of the civilized world, for the further continuance of this devastating struggle. France wants Cotton and markets; but she is aware that our whole country has hitherto supplied her with these, and that the destruction of the United States as a great maritime power is at war with her traditions and her interests. We think all this might have been managed more wisely, so as to have exalted the prestige and gratified the reasonable wishes of Napoleon, without damage or peril to our country and her cause. But we had a right to decline the French proffer conclusively. So here is no cause of war.

But suppose Great Britain and France should unite in recognizing the independence of the Rebels? Well: what of it? That would be annoying, but nothing more. To all intents and purposes, saying a diplomatic fiction, they have recognized that independence already. Mason writes letters of complaint concerning blockade to Lord Russell, and receives civil second-hand answers; Seward spends quite as much time in confidential intercourse with the higher French officials as does Mr. Dayton. It would be a gross violation of what may be termed the settled public law of the civilized world to recognize the Rebels as independent; it would form an ugly precedent for the future; but it would be of small practical account to us. It would break no bones and no blockade. The question of Union or Disunion is to be settled by battles, not protocols—in America, not in Europe. On the whole, we shall continue to be let alone.

THE KENTUCKY SLIDE.

The following letter from a Pro-Slavery Unionist of the ordinary pattern gradually moulting his Secession plumage is an instructive chapter in the history of the times, and as such we print it, advising Gen. Burnside to keep a sharp eye on the writer and thousands like him who illustrate the past Unionism of Kentucky:

To The Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.
SIR: Will you hear a few things from an humble citizen concerning the great war that is now raging between North and South? I have read your paper when I could get it, and I regard you as the ablest writer in the country. An able writer, conducting a paper with a large circulation, has it in his power to effect a great deal for the good or ill of mankind.

I am against your policy, though, of lowering the standard of excellence, and abolishing distinctions where there should be a great difference recognized. I allude to your desire of abolishing distinctions between black and white, and inviting the drops of Europe to populate this country. Let the war terminate as it may, this country rightfully belongs to the people who inhabited it and by their ancestors. They have a right

emption right that should never be alienated. This is a goodly land, and should belong to those who have settled, cleared, and adorned it, and should not be given away to the imbrued, characterless people of Europe, especially at a time when all our wealth is needed to sustain our Government. It is killing the goose that has laid the golden egg. But your intended philanthropy will be ready to reply we should be willing to open our doors wide enough to receive the poor and indigent from other climes. Well, do you set upon that idea personally? Do you when you find a man sick with some contagious disease carry him into your house, where your whole family would be likely to fall victims? No, you do not. If you do anything, you have him sent where he will be healed of his disease with the least danger to others. A man of your ready apprehension can no doubt see where my thoughts are drifting. Is it for the general benefit that woolly-headed Africans or garlick-smelling fellows from Germany should come to gather over the whole extent of our land? But will you say that we invite foreign emigration that we may have their aid in voting and fighting on our side? Call to mind the invitation of the early Britons to a foreign power for aid, who, when they had driven out the foe, concluded to set up as masters of the country—and they did it.

The Southern people are more homogeneous than they are of the North, and in my judgment that is the main reason for their unexpected success. He who stands upon a ridge can see much further on either side than he who is at the base. I am sure we have the soldiers from both armies alternately with us, and while I would prefer that the South should quit their arms and yield to rightful authority, I am much struck with the difference between the soldiers Federal and Confederate—especially the cavalry. The Southerners look like they meant something by their movements, while the Federals lie around loosely, looking like it would be a very disagreeable necessity if they have to go into a fight. They do not seem to realize that war means fighting; and when they do get into a fight, the contrast is still more apparent. The Federals surrender at the earliest possible moment without even making any attempt to get out of the way. If they should not be able to win the fight, I am speaking of minor engagements, where only a few thousands are placed. They do fight better when forced into a big fight, like a drove of buffalo. Is it to be expected that a proud people like the Southerners can be brought to terms by such soldiers as I have described? Do you find a schoolboy ready and willing to submit to the rule of his teacher if he finds he can fight him out of the house? Soldiers who go out to put down a rebellion, should be valiant-hearted men who are not afraid to die. If the Rebellion is successful as often as the power rebelled against, they begin to despise it. But such Cavalry as I have seen in the Federal service! Dutch! on horse-back! As well have so many and begged to be beaten, to wear them out, as such soldiers. Of all the humbugs of the war the Federal Cavalry is the greatest; fifty of such men would be much better to a brigade as five thousand, and less expensive. But why tell me of these things, do you ask? Simply to open your eyes and to show you why many young men who have stood stoutly for the Union, fight on the other side when forced to fight at all. The Union has ever been very dear to me, was good enough for anybody, but when I am forced to fight with South Krout on one side, and perhaps a striking Black on the other, I will prefer to go where my instincts lead me. I am a young man, and expect if the draft is carried to go into the ranks where gentlemen are, although not very finely clad.

This War for the Union is getting too heavy for us in Kentucky. What! fight against our kindred, and against our interest, that Abe may rule instead of Jeff. It is time we should ask the question whether it would really be such a calamity, as we have ever been taught, to divide the Union. I have concluded that the sun would still rise in the east and set in the west. And it strikes me it is what you should desire if you are so anxious to be rid of Slavery.

Yours respectfully,
JAS. RILEY.
Greenville, Ky., April 26, 1863.

THE SIEGE OF PUEBLA.

Our last dates from the City of Puebla were to April 9. French accounts assured us that between April 6 and April 9 the French troops had taken possession of the Plaza de Armas and the Cathedral, and that they had at that time under their control one-half the city. A Mexican dispatch, on the other hand, which a German paper in San Francisco had received from a place 60 miles south-east of Acapulco, asserted that during that period—from April 6 to April 9—the French troops had suffered a heavy defeat, and had been compelled to retreat to Cholula. In our issue of Saturday we showed that this last news was highly improbable, if not altogether impossible, and from the absence of later French accounts from Puebla, we inferred that up to the 11th or 12th of April the siege had been progressing without any new successes on the part of the French.

The last arrival from Havana confirms our opinion in every particular. A French steamer had arrived at Havana from Vera Cruz, with dispatches from Gen. Forey to the French Government. The Havana papers contain no official accounts of subsequent movements upon Puebla, yet the *Diario* gives a summary of the reports which it had received. According to these, the French dispatches from Puebla were to April 12, or three days later than our previous information. Gen. Forey was said to be entirely satisfied with the result of operations, which were progressing slowly and cautiously, but about the final issue of which he had no doubt. It was believed in Vera Cruz that the English packet which was to leave on May 2 would take out the news of the fall of Puebla. Although all these reports rest only on hearsay, we have no doubt that so much as concerns the siege of Puebla will be found to be substantially correct. If the French had either gained a great success or suffered a serious defeat, we should have some more definite intelligence about it. In the case of a great French success in particular, Gen. Forey would hasten to give it in Mexico the widest possible publicity, as a means to increase the sympathy of the Mexicans with the French invasion.

The *Diario* mentions some other news. A considerable cavalry force is said to have made a sortie from Puebla in order to join Comonfort, but to have been compelled to return to the city, and after suffering a heavy loss. Gen. Comonfort is reported to have been flanked, and to find himself in a critical situation. This report, however, even the *Diario* doubts, while, on the other hand, it regards as official a report that the fort of Guadalupe is closely surrounded, its communications cut off, and the garrison likely to be compelled by starvation to surrender. It further regards as trustworthy an account that the city of Merida, the capital of the State of Yucatan, has pronounced in favor of the intervention, that the whole neighboring country had followed this example, and that the (Liberal) Governor of Yucatan had fled. It is, of course, impossible for us to determine what part of the reports, if any, is true, but the siege of Puebla still remains the most important question. Notwithstanding our warmest sympathy with the sacred cause for which the Mexicans are fighting, we admit our fear, that the Mexican Savantop will fall before the superior artillery of the French. Its fall, we believe, would prove a turning point in the history of the invasion.

The ulterior designs of the French Emperor are, without doubt, contingent upon circumstances. If ever a sovereign could be justly compared to a chess-player, it is Louis Napoleon. Every new event in the affairs of other countries modifies his plans, and suggests to him new moves on the political chess-board.

We do not believe that the obstacles with which he has hitherto met, would alone be sufficient to deter him from continuing the campaign in Mexico. On the contrary; it is most probable that he is now more desirous than ever to indemnify himself for the expenses already incurred, by the occupation of, at least, the rich State of Sonora. But, in all probability, the Polish question will prove of great assistance to the Mexicans. The suppression of our rebellion would be of still greater importance to them.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Last evening was unpropitious for the Muses, especially as they put on a sick-and-pan new dress—new at least to this latitude—in the shape of an opera, by the redoubtable Signor Verdi. We beg to mention as a stage aside, that this opera is not new to Italy. Years back it was born and baptized under the name of *Stephen*, or something of that sort. But *Stephen* was martyred. There was something in the plot worse than politics, namely religion for the land in which it was the light: there was Protestantism and Olympos, know what all is in the story, and so *Stephen* was martyred and forced the boards. But happily an opera has a dual life. It is words and music: and although the words were killed—they were but the letter, while the music was the spirit which gave the work life. So *Stephen* was reborn literature-wise. A new text was set to music. And the result is before us.

The plot has the merit of simplicity. Harold, a knight bedeviled by the preachings and screechings of Peter the Hermit, leaves, like an ass, a beautiful young wife to recover the holy sepulchre. The wife must love something, as Harold was away so long basking at the hearth, and, alas! probably, in that memorable transaction, the capture of Jerusalem, when the victors put the Jews inside the walls to death—believing, in their ecstasy, that they were the Original Jacobs who were guilty of the crucifixion (so history reporteth of the blind zeal and fury of the invaders, who shes and there abolished time to the tune of twelve hundred years). The love of the wife of Harold for something was only a sort of flirtation after all, but it terribly distressed Harold on his sudden return, for he saw that Mrs. Harold behaved in a monstrous queer manner generally. Mrs. Harold, however, wishing to give over the flirtation, writes a letter to the gentleman, and puts the note in a well-bound volume for his "single eye." The course of true love, however, runs rough, and this letter was picked out by Harold of the well-bound tome lying on a table, in a grand ball-room, where knights in full armor were doing everything but dance. Harold availed himself of the opportunity to denounce his wife in the most tempestuous manner before the whole crowd, who, previous to that time, had been elaborately gay, and singing like doves to the soft accompaniment of the brass tubes and kettle-drums, and cymbals and great drum. The Harold lady, however, had a father, who interfered, and made the quarrel his own. The *pater-familias* did not allow the documents to be read, and so forth. Finally, Harold is about to kill the sentimental gentleman who admires his wife; but a Hermit, a man with a beard, bass-voice, and that truculent manner which belongs of right to stage-hermits (who were the Broadway squad in the rough, of the Middle Ages) interferes, and assures Harold that bloodshed is contrary to the canons of the church. Harold, being a good sort of a fellow, relents, spares the sentimentalist, and emigrates to Scotland. Notwithstanding that country was the dulllest place in Christendom at that time Harold contrived to exist there, but only as a Hermit—in company with the other Hermit. Mrs. Harold being out on an emigrating tour herself, happened to be wrecked, one fine morning upon the very coast where the Hermits were. One of the Hermits finding that the sentimentalist had been killed by the irate father of the lady, and being assured that the whole love affair amounted to nothing but a little pastime to while away dull hours during his Saracenic business, and feeling is finally complimented thereby, rushed into the lady's arms. Not necessary to say that this Hermit was the junior member of the dry-bean and cold-water firm.

There is of course a terrible (musical) potholing leader one would suppose to no end of lyrical bloodshed; and there is bitter disappointment felt by the audience that blood did not stream down the stage, and overwhelm the prompter in the immensity of tragic wrath. But when authors forget their duty and make jolly conclusions, all the critic can do is to utter a caveat and submit.

The music, the main thing, now claims a word. Up to the time of the apparition of Bellini's *Il Pirata*, in or about the year 1828, Rossini's music, and that of a few imitators ruled. The introduction of a new style, in which a large simple theory and practice of declamation—and after all the talk about recent musical declamation, we find nothing superior or purer in its *genre* than the revelations of that now old work *Il Pirata*—had an immense effect on the works of others. Donizetti, like a skillful general, changed *fortiori* tactics, and wrote his *Lucia*; and no composer could hope for mercy who did not accept the new light—that is the old one—the Gluck theory of declamation—adding thereto the higher ecstasy of modern, and the nineteenth century, melodies, and the increased sonority and prominence of the orchestra, with the fresh and improved instruments. In this opera of *Aroldo*, we find the new school—phrasing, climax, declamation—all adopted—but with the touch of genius of course—for without that, Signor Verdi could not have made his mark.

The first act—often the least impassioned one of dramas and operas, in this instance rules the night. It is the most surcharged with melody and interest. We may note the fine bits assigned to Signor Mazzoleni, whose tenderness and resonance of delivery electrified the house. The finale of the second act, however, is one of the best pieces in the opera: it is splendidly worked-up—has good counterpoints in running syllabled phrases, and a happy contrast to this in subsequent long-drawn notes.

The baritone's solo—a piece of sweet revenge is prospect—is a happy inspiration. The prima donna is all grief—and in dulcet tones means to do poetical justice—but the plot is against her—and it is only in the fourth act that her happiness is achieved.

There was not so large an audience present as we expected—but there was a great deal of applause—and we beg to say quite as discriminating as it would have been in any European Opera House.

The cast of characters was as follows: Aroldo, a Saxon Knight, Signor Mazzoleni; Mina, his wife, Mlle. Ottolani Prignoli; Egberto, father of Mina; Godwin, a Knight Crusader, Herr Rubio; Enrico, cousin of Mina, Signor Reinhart; Bryan, a hermit, Herr Muller; Elena, cousin of Enrico, Mme. Fischer. The opera will be repeated on Wednesday, when doubtless a large audience will give the same discriminating and copious applause as marked its performance last evening.

—Theo. Thomas's Annual Vocal and Orchestral Concert at Irving Hall will be given Saturday, May 9, 1863. The following artists will appear: Mlle. Elena D'Angri, Mr. S. B. Mills, Mr. E. Mollenhauer, Mr. A. F. Toulmin, Signor Abella, and a grand orchestra of eighty performers will perform—among other things—Berlioz's Symphony of Harold.